

The Connection

Messages of Hope



HOPE
CHURCH | RALEIGH
WORSHIP. GROW. SERVE.

A Weekly Online Newsletter: Edition 790

July 3, 2024

“GOD’S TIMING - ALWAYS JUST RIGHT.”

Greetings.

My name is Bruce Mack and I am the stated supply pastor for Hope Church Raleigh, North Carolina. I hope this letter will be a brief introduction to those who don't know yet, and I look forward to worshipping, growing, and serving with you. In all honesty I never thought this day would come, although I had thought about it and planned for quite some time. As I imagine your story is, upon reflection, God allows us to take journeys that only in the end are we able to look back and see His hand in the travels He has allowed us to have. Graduating from high school in 1972 I found myself with two great passions in life. First I enjoyed the biological world and would spend hours out in the natural world enjoying, identifying, and classifying all manner of plants and animals. It was far more important to me than sitting around watching a football game or some other sport activity. My second great love was music and from a very early age I was exposed to a wide range of musical genres. My grandfather was a classical violinist and he introduced me to the marvelous world of the orchestra. I would sit and listen to him for hours as he played his violin and enjoyed his stories as he also was an officer in the United States Naval Academy Band. My father's music was that of jazz. He was trained on clarinet, saxophones, and flute. And he produced recording after recording of music from the big band era that I equally absorbed with my classical music. In the seventh grade I took up the saxophone myself and played throughout high school. I believed that music would be my profession so I enrolled at East Carolina University in the fall of 1972. My grandfather died the next year and I discovered after returning from his funeral that all the wind, no pun intended, was out of my sails with regards to music as a profession. I left school and after about a year I decided that I would pursue my second passion which was biological sciences. I enrolled at UNC Wilmington and graduated from college in the late 1970s. Anyone who lived through that period of time knows how difficult it was to find a job and I suffered the same struggles. The degree that I had earned sat on the shelf while I did all kinds of sales and business oriented things culminating in running the family business for about 10 years with my wife Diane. God began to work mightily in my life in the late 1980s and I rededicated my life to His full-time service at that time. In the mid-1990s I found myself in seminary where I graduated in 1999. Now 25 years after my degree in science was earned I found that I could not locate any churches anywhere in the world that would consider me as a potential candidate. About the time I started to ask myself the question of what was I going to do, a friend of mine called and told me about a job teaching in biological sciences at a local Christian school. I began work at the school and now 24 years later God has led me from a teaching position to where I am now.

I realize that there was nothing in the Bible that talked about retirement so I figured He had something for me to do and being the pastor here at Hope Church Raleigh is where he has led me. Not retirement, but reassignment. I reflect back on these times and consider the fact that it was 25 years after my science degree before I actually started teaching and almost 25 years since I received my seminary degree that I have the privilege of pastoring a church. Although it may seem to an outside observer a little unusual, I am reminded of a story of a gentleman in the Bible who after 40 years of shepherding in the desert got a call from God to speak for Him before the pharaoh.

Sometimes it appears that we are spinning our wheels. Sometimes it appears that what's going on in our life right now doesn't really fit any particular pattern or order that we can see. Our world today functions by the little gadget inside of our watch or our phone or our computer and it's nice to know what time the sun's gonna come up and go down, but we have failed to realize that today is not in charge. We function by this device that I've worn on my wrist for so long that I can't really get dressed without putting it on. This device is called a chronography and it measures time. But who determines that 10 o'clock in the morning is 10 o'clock and how does that equate to what God would say about time? The Bible describes God's time with a different word, **KAIROS** not *Chronos*.

The Bible talks about Jesus coming in “the fullness of time”. That time measurement is God's time not people's time. When God declares that He has a plan for us and that His plan will bring us hope and a future, we must remember that this time is not equated to how we measure time but how He measures it. Over and over and over again in the Scriptures we are struck with the fact that time is critical, but it is not our time at all, it is always His time. In fact, time is the measurement of the depletion of energy. As something runs down we measured that as time. It is the energy that is dissipated. In the beginning verses of Genesis God first creates the heavens and the Earth: the matter of the universe. Next He creates light. This light, this energy is what drives everything in the universe; it is the other essential part to have so that everything works as it does. Matter is required for things to exist and energy is designed to cause things to move. It is what drives everything. At the moment he created light, He created the flow of power from high potential energy to low and it is by that that we measure time.

But since He is the infinite God, the God who is outside of time, our attempts at the measurements of it as He sees it simply fall woefully short. We do not consider often that His plan runs on His timetable not ours. As I reflect back on this and the position which now He has allowed me to have, I thank Him for allowing me this privilege. A privilege which He placed in my heart decades ago and now has come to fruition. I have no idea how long this will continue, but I know that He knows and I know that if He is leading He will provide the moments necessary to complete the tasks which He already sees completed.

It is my privilege to serve Him here in this place and I look forward to working with these He has placed around me. I know that the task that I have before me in equipping the Saints for service is beyond my capability. I am humbled by the fact that He would consider using me in this place and it is my desire to walk this walk with extreme care. However, I have no doubt that this is His calling on my life for me now and where He leads He always provides. So I will find myself in the best position that any Christian can find themselves and that is on my knees praying for His strength and for His guidance in the days ahead. I believe that when the new pastor is identified and installed it will be their time to serve Him in this place. I even now pray for that one as God prepares him for this part of his journey. And I will pray for you and what God has in store for you because he is the same God, yesterday, today, and forever!

Blessings is His name. *Pastor Bruce.*

HOPE Calendar

Wednesday, July 3

Wednesday Night Study
& Prayer @ 7:00 p.m.

Friday, July 5

Worship Team Rehearsal @ 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, July 7

Worship Team Run Through
@ 8:15 a.m.

Worship @ 9:30 a.m.

Wednesday, July 10

Wednesday Night Study
& Prayer @ 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, July 11

Worship Team Rehearsal @ 7:00 p.m.

Helping Hands Ministries

Fellowship - July 7

Church is Providing

ProPresenter - July 7

Bill Joyner

Soundboard - July 7

Volunteer Needed

Live Streaming - July 7

Franklin Johnston

Communion - July

Lynn Joyner

Greeter - July 7

Joan Rollinson

Nursery Volunteer - July 7

Volunteer Needed

Scripture Text and Sermon This Sunday

2 Timothy 3:16 - 17
Romans 10:17

“What is the Bible?”

Outreach Ministries

“Food of the Month”

for the Raleigh Dream Center
Food Pantry

**Canned Meals(Stews, Chili, etc)
Pop-Top Cans, Please.**

We have a collection bin in the foyer

HOPE Meal Ministry

Take a meal from the freezer if
needed for you or someone else.

TLC Devotion

4th Wednesday each Month
@ 11:00 a.m.

5124 Departure Dr # 101, Raleigh

Spiritual Growth Ministries

Women of HOPE

Saturday, July 13

Topic: How do you deal with
loneliness? Meeting at:
First Watch - 6320 Capital Blvd,
Suite 130, Raleigh (closes at 2:30)

Wednesday Night Ministries

Summer schedule on Wednesday nights

Study & Prayer

Bible Study @ 7:00 p.m.

Prayer Time @ 8:45 p.m.

Is prayer a passion for you?

HOPE Church Raleigh
has a new ministry.

The ***Sunday Prayer Ministry***

If you would like to participate,
please contact Diane Mack
beautybycaris@gmail.com

Prayer Requests:

Revill, Ramsey, David, and the rest of the
Mallory Family, Janice Worthington,
Jamie Baldwin, Ron Clifton, Donna
Williams, Carol & Colin (Kathy Herriman's
Sister & Brother-in-law), Loretta (Sandi
Underwood's daughter), Joan Summers,
Shelley, Diane Mack's Sister-in-law,
Jordan & Cinnamon (son and daughter of
Lynn Joyner's family members), Tommy
and Billy Lanphere (Lynn Joyner's
brothers), Gene & Becky Hale, Ellie
Tappan, Dave & Dot Geil, Carlyle and
Cynthia Franklin (Sandra Pierce's dad
and stepmom), our Military, Police, Fire,
and EMS, our Missionaries, our Nation,
and the world.

Please send additional requests to Pastor

HOPE - REBOOT NOW

**Everyday Prayer
For
The Vision Team
The Session
The Congregation**

Celebration of Life Mary Lane Mallory

Family will receive from
2:00 - 2:45 p.m.

Service will begin at
3:00 p.m.

If HOPE members are able,
PLEASE park in our grass area
or next door in Moxie front
parking lot. This will give
space for our guests as they
join us to remember
Mary Lane.

Quote of the Week

*“All Scripture is breathed
out by God ”*

2 Timothy 3:16

Daily Devotions

For This Coming Week

Jul	7	Rom	12
Jul	8	Rom	13
Jul	9	Rom	14
Jul	10	Rom	15
Jul	11	Rom	16
Jul	12	1 Cor	1
Jul	13	1 Cor	2

HOPE Church Raleigh
An Evangelical Presbyterian Church
4911 Green Rd
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919-508-6827

Worship Time: 9:30 AM

www.HopeChurchRaleigh.org

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YouTube.com (type “HOPE Church Raleigh”
in the search box)

